

25 June 2012

Item 6f

Purpose of Report

To update on the work of Planning Advisory Service (PAS).

Summary

The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has been active throughout the 2011-12 municipal year delivering events and guidance to help local authorities better understand forthcoming changes to the planning system. This work will continue next year, with added focus on supporting authorities to address the challenges and opportunities resulting from the reforms. Members' feedback is welcomed.

Recommendation

To **note** the report.

Action

As directed by members.

Contact officer: Alice Lester
Position: Programme Manager
Phone no: 020 7664 3168
E-mail: Alice.lester@local.gov.uk

Planning Advisory Service update

Background

1. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) is a grant funded programme within the LGA. This year's grant allocation is £2.65. This report gives an update on activity so far this financial year, and looks ahead to the remaining 3 quarters of the year.
2. PAS consists of a small team of 8 consultants and 2 support officers. We commission most of our work and deliver it via suppliers from a framework, peers and colleagues within the LGA

Activity during April-June 2012

3. Aside from programme planning and scoping up the work for this year, the main items of delivery to date are:
4. On-site councillor or officer briefing sessions on topics ranging from viability to decision making. These have taken place at Loughborough (for Leicestershire Councils), Carlisle (for Cumbria councils), South Oxfordshire, South Staffordshire, Arun, South Somerset, East Sussex, South Cambridgeshire, Dacorum, Lichfield, South Kesteven, Thurrock, West Lancashire, Blaby and Kirklees.
5. A planning peer review took place at Enfield. We also piloted a new planning peer review 'open for business' at Swindon. A review for Fylde is scheduled for August 2012.
6. 'Understanding and responding to the NPPF' events - a series of 10 national events is arranged across the country from May-July, including, on 16 July at LGH, an event specifically for councillors (although councillors are able to attend any of the other events as well).
7. Plan-making support. We have worked with the following councils on different aspects of plan-making: Adur, Brentwood, Broxtowe, Calderdale, Cambridge, Chiltern, Cornwall, Cotswold, Derbyshire Dales, Eastleigh, East Devon, East Riding, Fylde, Greater Nottingham, High Peak, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Maidstone, Malvern Hills, North Devon, North Dorset, Rotherham, South Bucks. South Somerset, Stafford, Torridge, Woking, Warrington, Worcester, Wychavon.

25 June 2012

Item 6f

Looking ahead

8. We are continuing our work to provide direct support to local authorities to support them to get an up to date local plan in place. This includes a combination of direct support to councils, events, a NPPF checklist and may include peer to peer and political level dialogue. We have also worked closely with CLG and PINs to ensure that the support provided is complementary.
9. Our main focus remains working with councils on implementing the NPPF (mainly getting a plan in place). We are also arranging:
 - 9.1. Leadership Academies for the autumn, developing proposals around supporting groups to carry out their 'duty to co-operate',
 - 9.2. developing practice and support to councils on neighbourhood planning,
 - 9.3. another round of benchmarking and improvement work,
 - 9.4. joint work with the LGA on growth and prosperity
 - 9.5. arranging sessions under the Gypsy and Traveller National Awareness Programme
10. If you would like any further information please contact Alice Lester, alice.lester@local.gov.uk